CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method for providing maintenance operations for a switch of a telecommunications service provider, while securing lawful intercept related data collected by [a] the switch ~~of a telecommunications service provider~~ and stored in a database associated with the switch, comprising the steps of:

encrypting ~~that~~ a portion of the database including the intercept related data; and

upgrading a portion of the database including upgradeable control data for controlling the switch by another entity outside the telecommunications service provider while preventing ~~another~~ the entity outside the telecommunications service provider from decrypting ~~that~~ the portion of the database including the intercept related data without authorization from the telecommunications service provider.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a logical key at the telecommunications

company that allows ~~that~~ <u>the</u> portion of the database including the intercept related data to be decrypted.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of inserting the logical key into ~~that~~ <u>the</u> portion of the database including the intercept related data to be encrypted.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of creating the key creates a software key that is used for the encryption of ~~that~~ <u>the</u> portion of the database including the intercept related data.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of blocking access to display commands that cause ~~that~~ <u>the</u> portion of the database including the intercept related data to be displayed by the switch.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the data base to a vendor with ~~that~~ <u>the</u> portion of the database that is encrypted.

Claim 7 (original). The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of upgrading by the vendor without the need to decrypt or otherwise provide access to the sensitive intercept related data.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing programming code for controlling the switch in ~~that~~ the portion of the database including the intercept related data.

Claim 9 (original). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing protection for the intercept related data in accordance with a lawful intercept legislation.

Claim 10 (original). The method according to claim 9, wherein the lawful intercept legislation is CALEA.

Claim 11 (currently amended). An apparatus for ~~securing intercepted telecommunications data collected by a~~ providing maintenance operations for a switch of a telecommunications service provider, while securing intercept related data collected by the telecommunications service provider, comprising:

a database for storing an encrypted version of the intercept related data and for storing upgradeable control data for controlling the switch; and

a logical key at the telecommunications company that allows ~~that~~ a portion of the database including the intercept related data to be decrypted.

Claim 12 (original). The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a switch at the telecommunications service provider.

Claim 13 (currently amended). The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the logical key is a software key that used for the encryption of ~~that~~ the portion of the database including the intercept related data.

Claim 14 (original). The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a vendor switch.

Claim 15 (currently amended). The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the vendor switch is programmed to prevent display of commands that cause ~~that~~ the portion of the database including the intercept related data to be displayed.

Claim 16 (cancelled).